[12th October 1928

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I ask the hon. Member to make a recommendation to the Government of India that this Council has expressed its desire to have such a power and that it should have such a power. I am not asking him to fight."

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" The hon. Member is well aware that such a provision was inserted in the Bill submitted by this Government and it was disallowed."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire whether the Government of India are at present inclined to give the concession which was sought for by this House ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I cannot possibly say that. That is a question to be addressed to the Government of India."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know whether in the Local Government's reply to the Government of India they propose to make any reference to the opinion of this Council that any Bill introduced in this Council must contain the provision giving the Council the power to fix the rates of assessment ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I cannot say, Sir, what the reply would be till it is prepared and considered."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" Sir, if the Government of India and the Local Government hold out a threat to the Council that unless the Council agrees to leave the power of fixing the rates of assessment to the Government they would not introduce a Bill in the Council, may I know how they reconcile their position with the clear and specific recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee that the fixing of assessment of land revenue should thereafter be left to the vote of the Council ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I do not agree with the hon. Member in his description of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee."

Loans

Penal interest on loans under the Agricultural Loans Act.

* 546 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in many cases under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agricultural Loans Act penal interest is charged on very small balances and that in that manner the sums grow heavy and oppressive ; and

(b) whether he will consider the advisability of regulating the levy for the penal rate in such a manner as not to be oppressive where the ryot is in ignorance of the actual small balance standing against his name ?

A.—(a) The Government have received a representation on the subject from Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.

(b) The question of amending the rules relating to the levy of penalty on arrears of loans is under consideration.